

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1361

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1175

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 10350 VICE 0350)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UNGA

SUBJECT: DEBATE OVER GOM STANCE ON ZIONISM

REF: A. BRASILIA 9923; 2. MEXICO 10288

1. BOTH IN MEDIA AND IN PRIVATE, DEBATE CONTINUES HEAVY OVER MEXICAN VOTE IN UNGA IN SUPPORT OF ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION. LATE LAST WEEK, CENTRAL JEWISH COMMITTEE OF MEXICO PLACED AD IN ALL MEXICO CITY DAILIES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT-RUN NACIONAL, WHICH REFUSED) DEPLORING UNGA CONDEMNATION OF ZIONISM, WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS THE "NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF JEWISH PEOPLE." AD PRAISED ECHEVERRIA'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT ISRAEL FROM BEING EXPELLED FROM U.N., BUT HINTED THAT GOM AND OTHER THIRD WORLD GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY "PETROLEUM BLACKMAIL AND PETRODOLLAR MIGHT". FOLLOWING DAY, HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR COLUMNIST GARCIA CANTU ALL BUT CALLED MEXICAN VOTE CONDEMNING ZIONISM A SELL-OUT OF TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES IN FAVOR OF BOURGEOIS COMMERCIAL INTERESTS

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AMONG ARAB STATES. IN PRIVATE, MANY OTHER MEXICANS HAVE

EXPRESSED SHOCK AND SHAME AT HAVING MEXICO ALIGNED WITH
"ANTI-SEMITES".

2. GOM RESPONDED ON NOVEMBER 24 WITH APOLOGIA FOR ITS
UNGA VOTE VIA A LENGTHY EDITORIAL IN NACIONAL. EDITORIAL
CHARGED THAT THOSE TAKING EXCEPTION WERE REALLY THE ONES
BETRAYING MEXICAN DIPLOMATIC TRADITIONS, AND ATTEMPTED TO
SHOW THAT MEXDEL HAD IN FACT SOUGHT DILLIGENTLY TO WATER
DOWN "VIOLENT" PREAMBULAR PORTIONS OF ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLU-
TION AND HAD FINALLY ABSTAINED WHEN THESE PORTIONS WERE PUT
TO SEPARATE VOTE AT ITS REQUEST. EDITORIAL ALSO NOTED THAT
MEXICO HAD SUPPORTED MOVE TO POSTPONE UNGA CONSIDERATION OF
ISSUE UNTIL NEXT SESSION. WHEN THIS MOVE FAILED, MEXICO
HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TRADITIONAL
OPPOSITION TO USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND MILITARY OCCUPATION
OF TERRITORIES, AND IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO
HOMELAND. FINALLY, EDITORIAL WARNED OF "BAD FAITH AND EVEN
PERFIDY" ON PART OF THOSE WHO ALLEGED A SELL-OUT FOR NARROW
COMMERCIAL GAIN, A NOTION, IT SAID, WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE
COME FROM THOSE HOSTILE TO MAIN THRUSTS OF MEXICAN FOREIGN
POLICY OR WISHING TO SOIL MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE.

3. SEPTTEL REPORTS MOVE--APPARENTLY AN ECHEVERRIA
INITIATIVE--TO GATHER TOGETHER GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL
MEXICAN JEWS FOR DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT ON THIS ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FLAP CAUSED BY MEXICAN VOTE ON
ZIONISM HAS NOT REACHED LEVEL HERE COMPARABLE TO THAT
FACED BY BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, IT CLEARLY HAS PRODUCED SERIOUS
SPLIT BETWEEN ECHEVERRIA AND SOME OF HIS MOST STALWART SUP-
PORTERS. PRIVATE REMARKS OF SOME GO SO FAR AS TO WONDER
WETHER PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAD NOT PUT PERSONAL GAIN, EITHER
POLITICAL OR FINANCIAL, AHEAD OF NATIONAL PRINCIPLES.
CALDERHEAD

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